secure future payments. Default in regular payment of instalments necessitated foreclosure of mortgaged properties The foremen also found it difficult to carry on the *chitties*. The member therefore requested that all *chitties* should be suspended till the economic depression lasted.

Secondly, coercive steps for recovery of tax due for any year should be started only the next year.

Contracts for the repair and maintenance of public roads, canals, etc. and for other public works should be given to the inhabitants of the localities concerned.

The instalments for repayment of agricultural loans should be reduced and the period for repayment increased.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Matevan Pillai, so far as *chitties* are concerned, the question of dealing with them and effectively controlling them is being considered.

As regards contracts for public works they are given to the people of the State whenever possible. Cases may however arise when it is better for the State that such contracts are given to others.

30. Decline in the material welfare of the people and remedies therefor.

MR. N. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara taluk, Group II*) said that the price of the articles of export such as cocoanut, *copra*, *coir*, pepper, ginger, lemon-grass oil, rubber and fish had gone down considerably while the prices of imported articles did not go down correspondingly. The duty on these articles was also not reduced. The people in consequence were put to much hardship and loss. In order to redress the grievances of the people in this respect, a committee should be appointed to enquire into the causes of trade and economic depression and suggest remedies for their removal. But as the committee would take time to finish its enquiry and submit its report, the following measures should be adopted at once:—

(1) The majority of the people of the State were agriculturists who found it difficult to pay the *kist*. The tax on land should be reduced appreciably as a temporary measure at least. Other countries have adopted this measure on account of economic depression. The member suggested that 50 per cent. of the tax for 1107 be remitted.

(2) The existing tariff rates on cocoanuts, *copra*, *coir* and other articles of export were high when compared to their market value and consequently the export duty on these articles was also high. These rates should therefore be reduced. In cases where such tariff rates have not been fixed, the rates of duty should be appreciably reduced.

(3) The license fee on *catamarans* and for fishing should be reduced from Rs. 15 to Rs. 7½.

(4) All necessary public works such as roads, bridges, culverts and canals in mofussil parts should be taken in hand at once.

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(5) Sales of immovable properties in satisfaction of decree debts should be postponed and the rules in this respect liberally construed and acted upon by the authorities concerned.

(6) Branches of the Land Mortgage Bank should be opened in all taluks.

(7) Propaganda should be carried out at the instance of the Government for the constitution of co-operative societies, the business of which should be the collection and sale of articles of local produce.

(8) Steps should be taken as early as practicable for improvement of the ports in State.

(9) Arrangements should be made with the shipping and railway companies for reducing the freight on articles of export.

(10) Loans should be advanced by the Government to the State-Aided and other banks in order that they might help the agriculturists and industrialists during times of depression.

(11) Fines in school fees should be suspended.

(12) Text-books should be changed only once in three years. If necessary, their copyright should be purchased by the Government.

(13) The restrictions regarding the size, pattern and number of note-books to be purchased by school going pupils should be relaxed.

(14) Travelling agents should be appointed for finding out foreign markets for local products.

(15) A trade agent acquainted with local conditions should be appointed in London.

(16) Steps should be taken for the collection and publication of true statistics regarding trade, commerce, agriculture, industries, etc.

(17) A committee of officials and non-officials should be appointed to suggest measures for reducing public expenditure.

(18) The rates of freight on rice and paddy imported into Travancore from the ports in Burma, Bengal and other countries should be reduced to the same rates as are applicable to consignments to Cochin. The landing charges at the Alleppey Port should also be reduced.

(19) Contracts for public works should, as far as possible, be given to Travancoreans and those for big works should be given in parts so as to benefit a large number of people.

(20) The Sri Mulam Popular Assembly which was responsible for the initiation of many measures intended for the public good should be reconstituted with enlarged powers on a statutory basis.

In conclusion, the member said that these measures were important and beneficial to the general public and should be brought into force as early as practicable.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Govinda Pillai, you have made about twenty different suggestions for removing the hardships that the people are at present suffering from. I am afraid it is not possible to reply to each one of them now. As you are aware, a committee has been appointed to suggest measures for relieving the people of their present economic depression. Its report has been printed and some of the suggestions contained therein have been adopted. Your suggestions also will be considered along with that report.

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